

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALI 00523 092050Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USSS-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SY-05 SSO-00

SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00 /049 W

----- 053162

O 092000Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL CALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1573

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

UNCLAS CALI 0523

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: THREATS MADE AGAINST THE SPANISH CONSULATE, CALI

1. ON OCTOBER 8 AND 9 THE SPANISH CONSULATE IN CALI, WHICH HAS ITS OFFICES LOCATED DIRECTLY ABOVE THOSE OF AMCONSULATE CALI IN THE SAME OFFICE BUILDING, HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF EXTORTION AND MURDER THREATS. ON OCTOBER 8 THREE UNIDENTIFIED COLOMBIANS IN A JEEP, CAME TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE SPANISH HONORARY VICE CONSUL, WHO IS A MEMBER OF A PROMINENT AND WEALTHY FAMILY IN CALI'S SMALL SPANISH COMMUNITY, AND WHO IS THE CHIEF OF THE HONORARY SPANISH CONSULATE. THEY QUESTIONED THE MAID REGARDING THE VICE CONSUL'S MOVEMENTS AND OFFICE SCHEDULE. THE MAID PLAYED DUMB, HOWEVER, AND GAVE THEM NO INFORMATION. LATER THAT MIGHT THE TRIO WERE SEEN IN THEIR JEEP, TALKING IN THE VICINITY OS THE VICE CONSUL'S RESIDENCE. HE CALLED THE POLICE, WHO RESPONDED WITH A VISIT TO THE RESIDENCE BY THREE DETECTIVES AND THE POSTING OF A BODYGUARD TO ACCOMPANY THE VICE CONSUL.

2. ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 9, THE SECRETARY AT THE CONSULATE ANSWERED A CALL IN WHICH THE UNIDENTIFIED CALLER TOLD HER THAT SHE WAS UNDER SURVEILLANCE TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THE CALLER KNEW THE COLOR OF THE DRESS SHE WAS WEARING. THE CALLER MADE AN EXTORTION THREAT AGAINST THE VICE CONSUL, WARNED THE

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SECRETARY NOT TO INFORM THE POLICE, AND ENDED WITH DEATH TREATS

AGAINST HER AND THE VICE CONSUL SHOULD THEY NOT COMPLY. THE SECRETARY IMMEDIATELY INFORMED THE VICE CONSUL, WHO WAS AT HOME, AND RECEIVED PERMISSION TO CLOSE THE OFFICE AND RETURN HOME HERSELF. SHORTLY AFTER SHE LEFT THE BUILDING, A BUILDING GUARD NOTICED A FAT MANILA ENVELOPE, SECURED WITH A RUBBER BAND, LEANING AGAINST THE WALL BESIDE THE SPANISH CONSULATE DOOR. ONE OF THE F-2 OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO AMCONSULATE CALI INSPECTED THE ENVELOPE AND OPENED IT, FINDING INSIDE NOTHING BUT WASTE PAPERS. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THIS INCIDENT IS CONNECTED WITH THE THREATS.

3. THE SPANISH VICE CONSUL HIMSELF CHARACTERIZES THE THREATS AS THOSE OF CRIMINALS INTERESTED IN EXTORTION MONEY, RATHER THAN THOSE OF A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED GROUP. WHATEVER THE MOTIVE, THE PROXIMITY OF THE SPANISH CONSULATE OFFICES TO THOSE OF AMCONSULATE CALI CREATES A SECURITY PROBLEM IN THE EVENT OF ANY TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE SPANISH CONSULATE. AMCONSULATE CALI HAS INSTRUCTED ALL BUILDING GUARDS AND ELEVATOR OPERATORS TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR PACKAGES AND STRANGERS, DESTINED TO EITHER OFFICE, AND WILL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

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